

4 May 1978

OLC #78-0357/12

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Analysis Group
FROM:
Security Analysis Group
SUBJECT: Nazi War Criminal Investigation

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1. Reference is made to a memorandum for Chief, Security Analysis Group, dated 24 April 1978, subject as above (copy attached).

2. Despite our agreement with Mr. Daniel Stanton, Associate Director, General Government Division, General Accounting Office (GAO), the final version of GAO's report dealing with their investigation of Immigration and Naturalization Service handling of Nazi war criminal cases remains critical of the procedure adopted by the Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide summaries of information in our files. Most of the requested revisions were incorporated. Stuck in the middle of the section dealing with the "Scope of Review" (page 7), they note, "we have no indication that the information provided to us by the various agencies was not accurate and complete." Further, page 8 accurately reflects that members of the Subcommittee staff were allowed to review summaries and copies of sanitized original documents.

3. These are no more than placebos when the summary states:

"GAO cannot absolutely rule out (a conspiracy) because its research efforts were hindered by.... limited access to agencies' records." (cover summary)

"When requested, the agencies provided original documents...on any matters which they (emphasis added) considered significant to the investigation." (page 8)

"Due to the fact we had to use CIA and FBI prepared summaries in lieu of receiving actual case files, we do not have reasonable assurance that we have seen the necessary documentation which would have enabled us to make any valid determination as to the objectives of the Subcommittee's request." (page 11)

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4. It is recognized that the report and the conclusions are those of the General Accounting Office. However, the charge that they could reach no "valid determination" because they "had to use CIA prepared summaries" unfairly implies that we may have engaged in a cover-up. The procedure of preparing summaries was agreed to in the interest of efficiency, both to facilitate the review by the GAO investigators and to relieve the Agency of the burdensome task of sanitizing volumes of material. Sanitized documents were seen in a limited number of cases and no desire was ever expressed to review more.

5. The Director of the General Accounting Office has solicited our comments to be incorporated, in whole or in part, into the final report. It is recommended that the Office of Legislative Counsel make clear that we cooperated fully with the investigation.



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Attachment

cc:



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